Reforms in NAIS

†3376. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to make comprehensive reforms in the present National Agricultural Insurance Scheme by the end of 2006-07;

(b) if so, whether certain proposals have been formulated for reforms in the said Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A Joint Group was constituted by the Government of India to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes. The Group has made in-depth study of the related issues and has made number of recommendations. The important recommendations include *inter-alia* reducing the unit area of insurance to Gram Panchayat for major crops, improving the basis of calculation of threshold yield, minimum indemnity level of 80% in place of existing 60%, coverage of pre-sowing/planting risks, post-harvest losses and perennial horticultural crops.

Based on these recommendations a proposal for Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) was prepared and sent to the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for 'in principle' approval. The Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance have given some suggestions to make further improvements in the scheme. To incorporate the suggestions an alternative proposal for MNAIS is being prepared.

Task Force for Co-operative Credit Structure Reforms

3377. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Chief Ministers and State Ministers of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.